

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243**

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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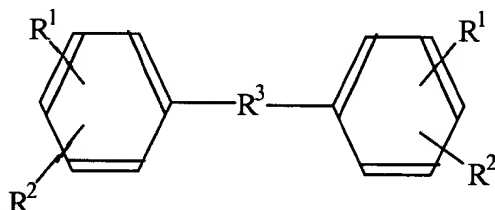
APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking which comprises 100 parts of the fluorine-containing elastomer of ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 2 and 0.5 to 5.0 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent represented by the formula (III):



wherein one of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is -NH<sub>2</sub> and another one is -NH<sub>2</sub>, -OH or -SH, R<sup>3</sup> is -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -O-, -CO-, an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a perfluoroalkylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a single bond.

8. (Amended) A process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 2, which comprises polymerizing a fluorine-containing monomer by using, as one of a polymerization initiator and/or monomer, a compound giving carboxyl group and/or alkoxybenzyl group to a trunk chain and/or branched chain and treating a polymerization product with an acid.

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12. (Amended) The fluorine-containing elastomer of ~~Claim 10 or 11~~ Claim 10, which satisfies the following equation (1):

$$(S_{co}/S_{cf}) \times (D/D_p) \times (F/F_p) \geq 0.01 \quad (1)$$

wherein  $S_{co}$ ,  $S_{cf}$ ,  $D$ ,  $D_p$ ,  $F$  and  $F_p$  represent the following respective values.

$S_{co}$ : Total area of absorbances at the absorptions derived from carbonyl group of associated and non-associated carboxyl groups having the absorption peaks at from 1,680 to 1,830  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured.

$S_{cf}$ : Area of absorbance at absorption derived from a harmonic sound of C-F bond having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,840  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured. In case where nitrile group is present,  $S_{cf}$  is a value obtained by subtracting an area of absorbance at absorption derived from nitrile group having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  from a total area of absorbances at whole absorption having a peak at from 2,220 to 2,840  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

$D$ : Specific gravity of the aimed elastomer at 20°C.

$D_p$ : Specific gravity (measured value: 2.03) at 20°C of a standard perfluoro elastomer (copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(methyl vinyl ether) in a mole ratio of 58/42).

$F$ : Fluorine content (% by weight) of the elastomer to be measured obtained by elemental analysis.

$F_p$ : Fluorine content (measured value: 71.6 % by weight) of said standard perfluoro elastomer obtained by elemental analysis.

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13. (Amended) A crosslinked fluorine-containing rubber molded article  
obtained by crosslinking the fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of  
~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 2.

**Claims 14-20 are added as new claims.**

FOR EASY REFERENCE